

Remarks

Reconsideration is requested. Claims 47-51 are canceled in this response without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-10, 13-21, 23-42, and 44-46 are pending.

I. Double Patenting

Claims 47-51 are rejected under 35 USC 101 as claiming the same invention as claims 19 and 22 of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/184,186.

Applicants disagree that claims 47-51 were claiming the same invention as claims 19 and 22 of application 09/184,186. However, in order to expedite prosecution and obtain allowance of the application, claims 47-51 have been canceled, rendering this rejection moot.

II. 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 47-51 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burkart et al. (Canada 2,073,092) in view of Gofuku et al. (US 5,269,868) and Muncheryan (US 4,808,789). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In order to expedite prosecution and obtain allowance of the application, claims 47-51 have been canceled, rendering this rejection moot. By canceling the claims, Applicants are not conceding the propriety of the rejection.

III. Reasons for Allowance

In the Reasons for Allowance, Applicants note that each of the features mentioned by the Examiner are not recited in, and are not part of, each of the allowed independent claims.


IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable action on this matter. If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any remaining issue in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD
P. O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 371-5265

Date: 7/22/04

By 
John I. Gresens
Reg. No. 33,112
JJG:JAL:PLSdb